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a sealed plain envelope.

MATTACHINE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors of
The Mattachine Society, Inc. will be held February
1-2 in New York City, the Chairman has announced.

The Year 1958 may be one of the most important
years for the Mattachine Society. At the present
time the Board of Directors is faced with many
decisions which will have far-reaching effect and
may very well determine our future growth for years
to come, as well as for the Year 1958. Like any
growing organization or concern, we must expect from
time to time to experience growing pains, and what
may appear to be complete upsets. These momentary
crises should not be cause for panic, but for calm,
logical thinking. Twice a year our Board of Direc-
tors meets and discusses the various problems that
have arisen in the Areas during the preceding six
months, and outlines the Mattachine program for the
subsequent period, as well as forming general poli-
cies for the future.

A complete report of this present Board Meeting
will be the subject of the Public Discussion Meet-
ing for the month of March.

ONE MID-WINTER INSTITUTE

The 1958 Mid-Winter Institute and the 6th Annual
Meeting of the Board of Directors of ONE, Inc., will
be held in Los Angeles January 31-February 2, it
has been announced. A debate, panel discussions,
luncheon, banquet and a dramatic presentation will
be featured.

THE DECEMBER PUBLIC LECTURE

As previously announced, the December public
lecture consisted of a panel discussion concern-
ing employment and the homophile. The two
speakers, both experienced in the field of em-
ployment, were Miss Joyce McCann from the person-
nel department of a national paper company, and
Miss Helen Sanders from that of a local depart-
ment store. Dr. Vera Plunkett was the extremely-
able moderator.

Miss Sanders opened the discussion by saying
that when you apply for a job, you go with the in-
tention of selling something--your ability to do
it. Obviously, the sensible thing to do is to come
prepared with some knowledge of the work; and the
more you know, the higher-paying job you can demand.

Miss McCann described the procedures she goes
through when interviewing applicants, and then
demonstrated them by giving a sample interview of
one of the members of the audience. She said that
it was her firm's custom to check back on at least
three different employers of the applicant to find
out what sort of work record he had. If he had had
four or five jobs in the previous year, none of
them which he had held for more than two or three
months, then he may be considered a doubtful risk.

As to the applicants' desirability, Miss McCann
stated that she depended on his self-confidence,
his feeling towards the job, and, above all, she
paid a great deal of attention to the emotional
overtones she sensed in the interview, his ability
to think clearly and to express what was in his
mind, plus other things she may sense about him as
a person. This was more important to her than his
grooming or appearance.

The nervous or highstrung person is not neces-
sarily disqualified from all types of work. As a
matter of fact, it has been found that such traits

are extremely valuable in certain jobs such as the retail fields and the graphic arts. One of the panelists stated quite explicitly that she would not think of accepting applicants to work for her if she thought they had no capacity to get excited or concerned about their work.

Bonding is not usually done unless the person's job involves the handling of stock or valuables. Whether or not a bonding company will bond you, it has no legal right to furnish any information about you to your employer, and if they find it necessary to interrogate you, your employer usually is not present during the interrogation.

Upon occasion, even the stigma of a criminal record can be overcome. As an example, one of the speakers brought out that she had personal knowledge of a person with a record who had his clergyman and two other persons in the community vouch for him in order that he might be bonded. Since then he has held a highly responsible position with his firm for nearly twenty years. Upon other occasions, you may have to settle for a job of the same type or in your field, but perhaps not necessarily with the people whom you would have chosen, such as a social worker who had originally worked for the city and was indicted for forgery. Later was able to accept a position for a county as a social worker, although at a slightly less salary.

If you do not have a home address, then the sensible thing to do is to arrange with a friend to use his. Simply tell the would-be employer that that is where you can be contacted. As a rule, the employer has little or no concern as to whether or not you are living in sin; he only wants an address where he can contact you.

Excepting with the Civil Service, when an application asks if you are single, separated, or

divorced, there is no concern about the applicants' sexual tendencies. It is simply that for some jobs married men are preferred because they are not so likely to shift about as much as an unmarried person. On the other hand, single persons are preferred because married persons are inclined to bring their marital problems to work with them, or an increase in the family may mean that they will leave for a higher-paying job to better support additional children.

With the separated couple, there is the danger that the employee will leave for home territory if an "all-is-forgiven" letter is received; while divorced couples sometimes have trouble about alimony and involve the employer in the resulting legal tangle.

It was commented by one of the panelists that employers many times deliberately select homophiles for certain jobs, such as those jobs which are usually filled by women, so that inconveniences which are brought about by the woman getting married may not have to be faced. This is true in many instances where a great deal of training may go into the job.

On the other hand, to have only homophiles, or a majority of homophiles in a specific department or office is usually unwise. For employees to mix their social and business lives is usually injudicious, but unfortunately large homophile groups are usually inclined to do so. Also, a feeling of clannishness usually results and the group becomes concerned about defending itself from other departments or parts of the organization, instead of getting the job done. Lack of discipline develops and there is an over-concern with intergroup feuds and so on. Besides, simply having the same sexual tendency in common, does not necessarily insure compatibility of personalities.

In concluding, the panel brought out that the fears the person brings with him when filling out an application or to the interview that create the real problem. It is the person's own fears about being "found out" that makes certain questions stand out, when in reality such questions are for the most part unimportant when standing alone. It is best to consider the unit as a whole, rather than worrying about one or two of its parts, and "get your foot in the door, before you start worrying about your toes.

THE LITERARY CHAPTER

On November 25th, Literary Chapter No. 110 was officially reactivated. The function of this chapter, as described in a previous issue of the Newsletter, is to serve as a discussion group of books relating to homophile themes and to encourage and aid all persons wishing to write for the Newsletter or the Review. In time it is also hoped that the special "Monster Division", described in the last Newsletter, will also be formed as an adjunct.

At a meeting held in December, the members of the Chapter decided that the book to be read by the entire group and then discussed in January would be THE HEART IN EXILE by Rodney Garland. The date of the meeting will be announced at the Public Lecture in January. Those interested in attending, but unable to attend the lecture may learn further details from the local headquarters office by phoning EX 7-0773.

WHO IS GOOD WITH A PEN?

Mattachine Review needs an artist who can create small, simple line drawings of situations mentioned or suggested by articles, cover illustrations, or promotional art work. Anyone interested may contact the Publications Director at the Mattachine office.

AN EXAMINATION

One of the things that came out of the recent ONE Institute Symposium was an awareness of a fresh perspective toward our own Society as a result of hearing such a detailed account of the other organizations working in the same field of endeavor. Another was the importance of having a clear idea of what we are doing, where we are going, and why, as an aid to efficient growth.

On January 28th, at Studio 30, 465 Geary St., the Mattachine Society and the Daughters of Bilitis will join in a panel discussion entitled WHERE ARE WE HEADED, at which time both groups will attempt to appraise themselves, both as an individual group working separately, and as two groups, working together toward a common goal. The existing problems and accomplishments will be gone over, as well as what both groups may expect from the future. This combined discussion will take the place of the Mattachine Public Discussion Meeting for February.

MILESTONE FOR PAN-GRAPHIC PRESS

Helen P. Branson's non-fiction book, "Gay Bar," came off the press in mid-December to mark the entrance of Pan-Graphic Press into the book-publishing field.

One of the first replies from a reader came from Luther Allen of Baltimore. Here's what he said, and he gave permission to be quoted:

"Gay Bar is one of those rare books one cannot put down. I love it! I must admit I felt quite dubious about this project when it was first announced, while reserving judgment until I had actually read the book. I'm happy to say I think your estimate of the book was very sound. I want to order at least a half-dozen copies to distribute among my friends.

It is such a sane and wholesome book, good humored, yet not at all superficial. It is frank, yet it shows unerring good taste. I think it will appeal to all types of readers—high brow, low brow, and middle brow. It deserves to be a best seller, and I think it will be."

The Newsletter Staff congratulates the partners of Pan-Graphic in their decision to enter the book-publishing field, and wishes them every success as they continue to move forward.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Mattachine members of the San Francisco Bay Area and their guests, including some of the members of the Daughters of Bilitis, had a very pleasant time the evening of December 14th at the now-traditional SFAC Christmas Party. Food, refreshments and decorations were generously donated by those attending.

One of the most entertaining and hilarious events at the party was a gift auction of inexpensive novelties brought by each guest.

The 1957 Christmas Season was off to a pleasant start as the various members and guests found their ways home at the end of the evening and the SFAC had a heart-warming contribution to its funds to face the New Year of 1958.

--Allan Jefferies

NOTICE OF MEMBERSHIP DUES

Many members of the SFAC recently received letters from the National Treasurer reminding them that their dues for the next year are now due and payable. These should be paid directly to the National Headquarters, not through the SFAC. Dues are the principal source of income for the Society, and should be of priority concern to each member.

LIBRARY NOTES

Recently donated to the SFAC Library was CRY CADENCE, a book of poems by Howard Griffin, who has occasionally contributed articles to Mattachine Review. No chronological sequence is given for the poems, but apart from the headings given for the different groups, they seem to fall into two major categories---those dealing with life in the Army, and those dealing with life outside the Armed Forces. They reveal steady growth and a sensitive, perceptive understanding.

The first ones are primarily literary in inspiration and slightly derivative, with occasional ones seemingly originating from his own individual responses, as in his description of a portrait of a medieval dwarf jester who:

"...Not a whole man (yet learned) he lived
for privileged mirth,
ate crows and monkeys, a crow himself
in strength,
took vengeance as a trade, exalted it.
- Here
holding within his hands the helmate goat
and in his eyes all Night and Sorrowing."

Later the gift for expressing his own unique view of existence is more steadily maintained and he now has the ability of the true poet to express everything in one brief phrase, as in the final line about "the last clear battlecall they play in camps:"

"It is the noise the night makes, plain
and tugging,
it underlines the day, - evis the scores
of tired lays
It is the sound the sky makes, when it
shuts its doors."

The experiences here are universal, and no serviceman can fail to recognize the feelings he

describes after killing in battle for the first time, or the sound of a lonely harmonica playing in the dark of a camp in the Pacific:

"... after the dusk there would be this thin crying.
this shy unformed half-music in the night calling to the dark calling to its own lost self."

In the final stage the poems are exclusively about civilian life. There are many moments of illuminated awareness here, and the mastery of the medium is complete, as in "The Gargoyle" where the Lonely "walk through the ways of the massive town . . . aware of rumor sidereal . . . of hearsay, deep and drowned. . ."

Mr. Griffin is a poet of special gifts and it is a sad pity that no other anthologies have been published by him since 1947. The book is obtainable from Farrar, Straus and Company at \$2.50.

ALPHA CHAPTER NO. 109

The first meeting of the reactivated Alpha Chapter No. 109 was held on December 11th, at which time the general program of the Chapter was outlined and discussed.

The Alpha Chapter will supervise the orientation program of the Area. Orientation will be set up for those persons who are presently members of the Society, and will be a pre-requisite for those applying for membership, so that everyone will have an opportunity to become familiar with the actual over-all purposes of the Society, its history, aims and principles.

Alpha will be the "general administrative" chapter of the Area, and will conduct a program which will be more generalized in contrast to the specialized programs of the other chapters.

DIARIES OF THE KNIGHT

Among the best publicized "secrets" of the British Foreign Office are the famous "black diaries" of Roger Casement, the Irish Patriot who was hanged by the English for Treason in 1916. Described as "200 pages of concentrated erotica," the diaries are, according to the official announcements, frankly recorded homosexual encounters. In a recent book THE ACCUSING GHOST OF ROGER CASEMENT, the well-known poet Alfred Noyes (who had taken one shocked look into the diaries in 1916) now attests his belief that they are actually the diaries of another man which Casement had meticulously copied as part of his official duties. (Casement, an official of the British Civil Service, had won international fame culminating in a knighthood for his inquiries and investigations over a wide field.) Regarding Casement's "pick-up" of Adler Christensen, a young Norwegian sailor who later turned State's evidence, Noyes believes it was an act of charity. However, Rene MacColl, an English journalist, in his longer, sympathetic, but coldly impersonal biography ROGER CASEMENT: A NEW JUDGMENT has no doubt that the diaries were authentic and is equally emphatic about the relationship between Casement and Christensen. Both writers call for the publication of the diaries, which the Foreign Office has steadfastly ignored.

ACCUSING GHOST OF ROGER CASEMENT (Noyes)....\$3.50.
ROGER CASEMENT: A NEW JUDGMENT (MacColl)...\$4.95.

Both available from VILLAGE BOOKS, 116 Christopher Street, New York 14, N.Y. Please add 15¢ for one book; 10¢ for each additional book, to cover mailing and postage.

Lists of books available from VILLAGE BOOKS are received monthly and are posted in the SFAC Lounge, Room 309, 693 Mission Street.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JANUARY 9th PUBLIC DISCUSSION MEETING
1830 Sutter Street - 8 p.m.
"THE PROGRAM OF THE SFAC."
- JANUARY 12th BRUNCH - 1111 Pine Street
Apt. 101 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
\$1.00
- JANUARY 17th KOFFEE KLATCH
463 Duboce Street - 8 p.m.
- JANUARY 19th GET-ACQUAINTED SOCIAL AFTERNOON
64 Culebra Terrace - 11 a.m.
until 4 p.m. - Coffee
- JANUARY 28th PUBLIC DISCUSSION GROUP
conducted jointly by the Mattachine Society and the Daughters of Bilitis.
Studio 30 - 465 Geary Street
8 p.m.
Panel Discussion "WHERE ARE WE HEADED," (This meeting will take the place of the Mattachine Public Discussion Meeting for the month of February.)
- JANUARY 30th SFAC BUSINESS MEETING - 8 p.m.
Area Council Lounge
693 Mission Street -- unless otherwise announced.

For information phone: EX 7-0773
or
PR 6-7543